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Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 IO-03 SAM-01

SP-02 PRS-01 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 L-01 EUR-08 EA-06

/051 W
---------- 069099
O 091905Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2353
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2180

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AO, US, ZA
SUBJECT: ANGOLAN RECOGNITION

REF: STATE 265503

1. SUMMARY.ZAMBIA WILL NOT RECOGNIZE ANY DECLARATION OF KPU ON PWCT OF MPLA. ZAMBIANS ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, ABOUT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA ON BEHALF MPLA AND URGE USG PRESS RESTRAINT ON MOSCOW. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFTEL, I SOUGHT AND OBTAINED APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR FOREMON AFFAIRS MARK CHONA ON SUNDAY, NOV. 9, AT STATE HOUSE. CHONA, IN VERY RELAXED MOOD, STATED ZAMBIAN POSITION REACHED SEPT 13 JOINTLY WITH PRESIDENTS NYERERE, MACHEL, AND KHAMA TO SUPPORT GOVERN-MENT OF NATIONAL UNITY IN ANGOLA. THIS DECISION WAS UNCHANGED AND IS STILL VALID. THUYN ZAMBIA -- AND CHONA ASSUMED OTHER THREE AS WELL -- WOULD NOT RPT NOT RECOGNIZE ANY UNILATERAL DECLAR-ATION OF SOVEREIGNTY ON PART OF MPLA.
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3. SUPPORTING ABOVE STATEMENT, CHONW DREW MY ATTENTION TO RECENT STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT NYERERE ON OCCASION OF VISIT TO TANZANIA OF NIGERIAN FONMIN GARBA. NYERERE QUOTED IN PRESS AS SAYING PORTUGUESE SHOULD WITHHOLD GRANT OF INDEPENDENCE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISUNITY. ZAMBIANS HAVE HEARD NOTHING FURTHER OFFICIAL FROM TANZANIANS SUBSEQUENT TO THIS NYERERE STATEMENT, LEADINO THEM TO BELIEVE THEIR POSITION ALSO UNCHANGED LIKE THAT OF ZAMBIA. AS FOR MOZAMBIQUE, ITS POSITION SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT BECAUSE OF FRELIMO'S CLOSE TIES WITH MPLA. CHONA HINTED MACHEL MAY TRY TO INFLUENCE NETO (WHO WE UNDERSTAND FROM RADIO BROADCAST SCHEDULED VISIT MOZAMBIQUE EARLY NEXT WEEK FOR MEETING OF "LEADERS" OF EX-PORTUGUESE AFRICAN STATES) BUT EXPRESSED DOUBT MACHEL WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIGHT STRONG SOVIET INFLUENCE ON NETO. BEYOND THIS, CHONA REFUSED VENTURE IN COMMENTING ON MOZAMBIQUE POSITION.

4. CHONA INDICATED ZAMBIAN ASSESSMENT OF RELATIVE STRENGTHS THREE MOVEMENTS WITHIN ANGOLA PARALLELS OUR OWN. HE BELIEVES ANY CLAIM BY MPLA TO SPEAK FOR TWO-THIRDS OF ANGOLAN POPULATION SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY DENOUNCED BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS "BIG LIE." SAID IT REGRETTABLE SOVIETS APPEARED TO BE "MORE MPLA THAN MPLA ITSELF" IN DECLARING THEY WOULD PROMPTLY RECOGNIZE DECLARATION OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL ANGOLA BY MPLA. (COMMENT: CHONA PRESUMABLY REFERRING TO STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN ACCRA.)
5. CHONA HOPED USG HAD "BLUNTLY" TOLD SOVIETS THEIR DESIGNS ON AFRICA UNWELCOME AND UNWANTED BY AFRICANS AND THAT SOVIETS HAD NO BUSINESS ON CONTINENT. I RECALLED SECRETARY'S SEPT 23 BAN-QUET TOAST IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT AFRICA REMAIN FREE

OF GREAT POWER RIVALRY ON CONTINENT.SAID I THOUGHT THIS ABOUT AS POIPTED AS POSSIBLE IN DIPLOMATIC PARLANCE. CHONA SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE DETAILED INFORMATION, IF AVAILABLE FOR US ON SOVIET RESPONSE TO USG WHEN IT URGED RESTRAINT UNDER TERMS OF DETENTE, IMPLYING ZAMBIANS WOULD LIKE TO ATTEMPT TO HOLD SOVIETS TO THEIR PROMISES, IF POSSIBLE.

6. IN RESPONSE MY REMARK THAT PRESENEENCE OF FONMIN PERMSEC RATHER THAT CABINET MINISTER OR HIGH PARTY OFFICIAL AS SENIOR ZAMBIAN REPRESENTATIVE AT SOVIET EMBASSY'S NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION
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SEEMED INDICATE DOWNGRADING BY ZAMBIANS, CHONA SMILED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOVIETS GIVING ZAMBIANS REAL PROBLEMS THEY WOULD RATHER AVOID. TO MY COMPLAINT ABOUT NOV. 8 TIMES OF ZAMBIA EDITORIAL THAT SEEMED TO BRACKET US WITH SOVIET UNION AS MEDDLING IN ANGOLA, CHONA SAID EDITORIAL NOT TOUGH ENOUGH IN TELLING SOVIETS THAT ANGOLA WAS FOR THE ANGOLANS. CHONA IMPLIED IN-CLUSION OF US MERELY A BLIND, REAL TARGET WAS SOVIETS, ADDING HE PERSONALLY VERY PLEASED WITH IMPROVEMENT AND STRENGTT OF OUR

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OPEN AND FRIENDLY BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

7. CHONA WENT ON TO SAY HE AND CHIEF OF ZAMBIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE ARE ATTEMPTING IN-DEPTH STUDY ON SOVIETS DESIGNS IN AFRICA AND TRYING TO FASHION A LONG-TERM POLICY FOR DEALING WITH PROBLEM. ADDED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR BELOKOLOS HAD JUST ASKED FOR APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA WHICH PRESUMABLY HAD TO DO WITH RECONGITION OF MPLA. CHONA COMMENTED THAT CHINESE WERE "SMART" IN HAVING PULLED OUT OF ANGOLA COMPLETELY TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENED. SAID IT WOULD PROBABLY BE A NET POLITICAL GAIN FOR CHINESE IN AREA.

8. CHONA SAID SENIOR LEVEL ZAMBIAN LEADERSHIP MEETING AGAIN TOMORROW TO REVIEW ANGOLAN SITUATION. CHONA CONFNDENT HOWEVER MEETING WILL CONCLUDE WITH PRESIDENT REAFFIRNLNG POSITION DESCRIBED PARA 2 ABOVE.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW CHONA REQUEST TO ME (PARA 5 ABOVE) FOR ANY INFORMATION RE USG/SOVIET CONTACTS ON ANGOLA, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE SOONEST IF THERE ANYTHING WE CAN PASS TO ZAMBIANS.
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